

Message Text

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47

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 OES-05 HEW-06 EPA-04 /035 W

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R 280745Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9501

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0198

STATE FOR CU/EE; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT: CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND'S CZECHOSLOVAK VISIT, JAN. 26-28

1. SEVERAL POSITIVE SIGNALS TOWARD RESUMING THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT TALKS AND TOWARD SPECIFIC AREAS OF EXCHANGE IN ITS ABSENCE WERE GIVEN BY THE GOC DURING THE CZECHOSLOVAKIA VISIT OF CU/EE DIRECTOR YALE RICHMOND, JANUARY 26-28.

2. SPECIFICALLY, JAROLSLAV ZANTOVSKY, DIRECTOR OF THE MFA 6TH DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WAS A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOC TO RESUME THE EXCHANGES TALKS AND THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO "PINPOINT SOME AREAS OF AGREEMENT" EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF A FORMAL DOCUMENT." IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC QUESTION FROM THE CHARGE, ZANTOVSKY SAID THAT, DESPITE LONG-STANDING DIFFICULTIES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, GOC WAS NOT LINKING PROGRESS IN EXCHANGES TO SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS/MFN ISSUE. THIS REPRESENTS A MODEST BUT CLEAR DEPARTURE FROM GOC PRECEDENTS.

3. ZANTOVSKY'S LANGUAGE WAS ESSENTIALLY UPBEAT. SOME POINTS HE RAISED: GOC WILL PROPOSE GRANTEES AND PROGRAMS FROM ITS SIDE AND "YOU TELL US IF YOU CAN ACCEPT THEM OR NOT AND VICE VERSA," THAT SOME SPECIFIC AREAS OF EXCHANGE MIGHT BE IN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION, MUSICAL EDUCATION AND STAGE DESIGN, WHERE FIGURES LIKE JOSEF SVOBODA ENJOY AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, AND IN TECHNOLOGICAL AREAS, SUCH AS MEDICAL RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES.

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4. RICHMOND OUTLINED EXTENT OF EXISTING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING HOW IV PROGRAM CAN BE USEFUL IN FIELDS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE TWO SIDES. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AND NOTETAKING AMONG CZECH PARTICIPANTS (JOSEF ZABORKTSKY, HEAD OF CULTURAL TREATIES SECTION, MFA, AND IVAN BUSNIAK, 6TH DEPARTMENT, CULTURAL RELATIONS OFFICER).

5. ZANTOVSKY SAID, "THE SCOPE OF POSSIBILITIES IS INCREASING, NOT DECREASING, BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES" AND SAID GOC HAS HAD FIVE PREPARATORY MEETINGS TO DRAW UP ITS AGENDA FOR WHEN EXCHANGE TALKS RESUME. HE AGAIN RAISED QUESTION OF TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS, ONE FOR SCIENCE, AND ONE FOR TECHNOLOGY, AND SUGGESTED VALUE OF A MIXED COMMISSION TO STEER TALKS IN EXCHANGES PROGRAM IN INTERIM PERIOD BETWEEN ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS.

6. RICHMOND STRESSED NEED OUR SIDE FOR INFORMAL, FLEXIBLE MECHANISM TO PROVIDE FOR CONSULTATION AND REVIEW RATHER THAN FORMALLY CONSTITUTED JOINT COMMISSION, AT LEAST IN EXCHANGE'S EARLY YEARS.

7. IN EARLIER MEETINGS, MINED DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, JAROSLAV KUBRYCHT PROPOSED SENDING CZECH LECTURERS IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN EXCHANGE FOR AMERICAN LECTURERS NOW IN CZECHOSLOVAK UNIVERSITIES TO U.S. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY RICHMOND, KUBRYCHT SAID GOC WOULD WANT TO SEND THEM FOR UP TO TWO YEARS AND WITH FAMILIES. ALSO SAID GOC CONSIDERING WAYS OF INCREASING AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL SUMMER INTENSIVE CZECH LANGUAGE STUDY PROGRAM AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY, AND THAT GOC WOULD LIKE TO SEND 25 YOUNG CZECH TEACHERS OR ADVANCED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO U.S. FOR SUMMER PROGRAM IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDY. AT MINCUL MEETING INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LUBOS TRAVNICEK SUGGESTED GOC-US LOOK AT EXCHANGING DELEGATIONS OF SPECIALISTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS AND THEATER AS FIRST-STEPS IN BROADENING COOPERATION.

COMMENT: THIS WAS A HIGHLY USEFUL VISIT, AND POST IS APPRECIATIVE OF RICHMOND'S EXCELLENT BRIEFING OF GOC OFFICIALS ON SCOPE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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CU PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE IN EE, AND FOR RAISING INCREASED POSSIBILITIES HERE, INCLUDING THAT OF EXCHANGING YOUNG POLITICAL/ECONOMIC LEADERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE00198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760032-0774
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760113/aaaaalhb.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND'S CZECHOSLOVAK VISIT, JAN. 26-28
TAGS: OEXC, CZ
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006